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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,002	07/12/2001	William Alexander Hughes	5500-69700	2460

7590 06/27/2003

Lawrence J. Merkel
Conley, Rose, & Tayon, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767

EXAMINER

NAMAZI, MEHDI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2188

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

[Handwritten signature]

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,002

Applicant(s)

HUGHES, WILLIAM ALEXANDER

Examiner

Mehdi Namazi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,6,9,10,14,16,17 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5,7,8,11-13,15,18 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the application filed July 12, 2001.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1-2, 6, 9-10, 14, 16-17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Keller et al. (Keller) (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,661).

As per claims 1, 9, and 16, Keller teaches a multiprocessing computer system ("an apparatus"; title) comprising: a source tag identifies packets corresponding to a particular transaction initiated by source node ("a memory configured to store an

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indication of one or more addresses"; col. 7, lines 41-43), when a first processing nodes sends a read command to a second processing node to read data from a designated memory location("wherein the memory is coupled to receive a first address of a read command"; col. 2, lines 48-50); and

memory controllers 16A-16D may comprise control circuitry for interfacing to memories 14A-14D. ("a control circuit coupled to the memory"; col. 5, lines 60-61), additionally, memory controllers 16A-16D may include request queues for queuing memory requests, generally, a processing node that has an associated cache memory responds to the Probe/Sre command by directing a ProbeRes packet to the source node 70 indicating a Miss("wherein the control circuit is configured to cause an issuance of one or more probes corresponding to the read command responsive to the first address missing in the memory"; col. 5, lines 61-63, col. 14, lines 30-34), and probe response, described later with reference to FIG. 12, may indicate whether or not a hit was detected for the requested cache back, generally, response packet 34 is used for commands that do not require transmission of the address during the carrying out of transaction("wherein the control circuit is configured to inhibit the issuance of one or

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more probes corresponding to the read command responsive to the first address hitting in the memory"; cols. 7-8, lines 67-4).

As per claims 2, 10, and 17, Keller teaches response packet 34 may be used to transmit positive acknowledgment packets to terminate a transaction(" if the first address misses in the memory and the one or more probes result in clean probe responses, the control circuit is configured to store an indication of the first address in the memory"; col. 8, lines 5-7).

As per claims 6, 14, and 19, Keller teaches and probe response, described later with reference to FIG. 12, may indicate whether or not a hit was detected for the requested cache back, generally, response packet 34 is used for commands that do not require transmission of the address during the carrying out of transaction(" the control circuit is configured to cause a source of the read command to store a block addressed by the first address in a shared state if the first address hits in the memory"; cols. 7-8, lines 67-4) .

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Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 11-13, 15, 18, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mehdi Namazi whose telephone number is (703) 306-2758. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mano Pedmanabhan, can be reached on (703) 306-2903.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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or faxed to:

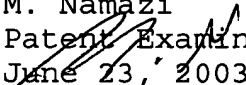
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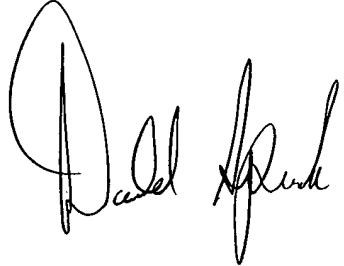
(703) 308-9051-2, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305-6606 (for informal or draft communications, please label PROPOSED or DRAFT)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 2,
2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

M. Namazi
Patent Examiner

June 23, 2003


Donald A. Sparks
Supervisory Patent Examiner
TC 2100